THE MUSICAL TIMES

Singing Class Circular,

(With which is incorporated "THE MUSICAL REVIEW,") Published on the 1st of every Month.

No. 112 .- Vol. 5.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1853.

Price 11d. Stamped, 21d.

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With which is incorporated "THE MUSICAL REVIEW." SEPTEMBER 1st. 1853.

MENDELSSOHN'S "ST. PAUL."

Contributed by G. A. MACFARREN. (Continued from page 229).

exciting situation, to suspend the progress of the the vindictive ferocity of man-a pertinent action for the introduction of the Prophet's well-symbol of the principles of good and evil. known reproof of the chosen city, Jerusalem, it! And, if poetical be the thought to introduce, fore assigned to the tenor, which is, with this in this situation, such a metaphorical (I must be exception, reserved, in this introductory portion allowed to borrow the term)—such a metaphorical of the Oratorio, to personate, dramatically, the illustration of the scene, how tenfold poetical is character of Stephen. the musical embodiment in which this thought is presented! It is as though some hovering Angel, rush upon their victim, and thrust him out of the watching the error of Heaven's favored Children, city. Thus are we led to that extraordinary dradrew a long, deep sigh, in sorrow, not in anger, matic conception which, upon a first hearing at striving, but powerless, by such loving admonition, least, makes a more prominent impression than to warn them from their purposed evil; or, as any other of the many very striking movements though the vision of the Son of Man, revealed to in this Oratorio, the Chorus of the People, "Stone Stephen to strengthen him against the murderous him to death!" a piece of such powerful reprethreats of his enemies, shed too its glory upon sentation of a will and an act, a curbless, furiously them that menace him, albeit they be so blinded raging, maddened lust for life and its ferocious by their rage as to be insensible of its radiance. gratification, as cannot be surpassed, and has

conception, as it is completely beautiful in effect; of art so to paint the passions of men that through the phraseology, the harmony, and, above all, the its medium we see into the heart-secrets which instrumentation, are, at the same time that they to the world are known but in the deeds they are essentially characteristic of the composer, prompt, and yet, while laying bare this metaphyespecially peculiar to this song, and we cannot sical anatomy, so to clothe it in the investiture of less wonder at the consummate artistry that from ideality that in thus presenting all of truth, it such original experiments could command suc- shows this very truth to the naked sense (which cess, than admire the perfect loveliness which is would, with indifferent likelihood, be lovely or their result. Two points of singular excellence repulsive), to be all of beauty; if it be the promay be technically described; first, the return to vince of art so to embody a thought, a feeling, as the principal Subject, (which is peculiarly felici- to make it live in the sense of those who witness tous even for Mendelssohn, who rarely suffers its presentation, and thus to create a sympathy this always prominent feature in a musical design not only between them and the artist, but amongst to elude some particular manifestation of his them with one another; if it be the province of power,) where the first employment, throughout art, the true engine of magnetism, to make the score, of the basses and the commencing of a multitude one-minded and one-hearted, and to the melody before the return to the key are the fill this universal mind and heart with a sense of means from which the effect is derived; second, greatness that is akin to, if not identical with its the reversion of the chief phrase of the song in the concluding symphony, which surprises all hearers by the newness of effect of which it shows in oblest province in the composition under notice, a familiar idea to be susceptible.

while it prevents what might else be monotony; and, to recur to the close of the previous piece, the change from major to minor which may, perhaps, give too much of transiency to the brightness that so livingly expresses the last words of Stephen, is well considered to unite the present number in the general color that pervades the scene, by avoiding a violent contrast of key in its introduction.

As a matter of imagination, there is a most subtle, refined, and delicate beauty in the idea of No. 7.—How poetical a thought is it, in this thus opposing the gentle benignity of Heaven to

No. 8.—To separate the actual from the ideal, that killeth the Prophets, which, as metaphor the history from the illustration, it is needful that strengthens the sense by the illustration of its the soprano voice, which has been engaged in the beauty, quickens the scene with a preternatural last Aria, should no longer continue the narrative, life by the ideal character with which it invests and the brief Recitative that now follows is there-

The Recitative relates how they, the People, This exquisite little Aria is entirely novel in most rarely been equalled. If it be the province where the fiercest passions, sublime like the tem-As a matter of art, the introduction of this pest, from their being above human control and piece is most masterly, since thus is obtained beyond human power, are brought before us in a relief to the agitated character of the scene in that very quality of truth which reveals the which it is an episode that heightens the effect inmost beauty of its most hateful aspect.

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nection with which I will not here further remark; the oration of Stephen, which I do in order to upon. remark upon the very different expression that is mouth to mouth the token-word of their resent- unlock the tenderest emotions of his soul; his calm demeanour, they can no longer wait for to the sense of the words and to the situation in the judgment of the Council, but hurry him from which they are uttered. the Tribunal with their cry of "Stone him!" justifying themselves in the murderous violence but not subdued, kneeling amidst the murderous they are about to perpetrate, by declaring in loud missiles of his assailants, teaching by his example, vociferation to the world, "He blasphemes God! vociferation to the world, "He blasphemes God! even more than in his precepts, the doctrine and and who God blasphemes, he shall perish!" Will its beauty for which he suffers, Stephen, still is now their only law, enfuriated bigotry its only strong in his wonted firmness, cries aloud the interpreter, and the right of might the all-sufficient authority for its administration.

half close on D, the voice ending upon the fifth suffered, and dies; becoming fainter and fainter of the chord, is most skilfully contrived to give with every sound that passes his lips. "And, lution of the discord. It would be tedious to shadow of deity, are unhidden by the ignorance trace, bar by bar, every point of mastery this and prejudice of man. Chorus displays; but one cannot forbear to A most happy artifi remark upon the immense power of the passage acute wind instruments sustain the incomplete of descending scales for the whole of the string chord of A flat, upon which the solo voice has instruments, while the voices, supported by the ended, and the chorus, and the organ, and the brass band, declare with vehement emphasis the string orchestra commence, through this, with crime of their victim, and the savage punishment very deep tones, in the key of F minor, the most of this, wherein they are exultingly engaged. beautiful of all the Lutheran Chorals I have ever Further must be noticed the especially effective heard, "To Thee, O Lord, I yield my spirit," application of the plagal cadence, and of the an- which seems like the pall with which mortal grief cient practice of closing with the major chord of decks what it has loved and lost, while the pure the tonic a piece in a minor key; the vague, one spirit, hovering over, delays its passage to Heaven.

I shall have to revert to this Chorus in noticing may say inconclusiveness of which is well in another, near the end of the work, upon its con- keeping with the feelings here embodied, that are rather gratified than satisfied, or, at least, not it is more to the present purpose to recur to the satisfied in their gratification;—the appetite for last choral piece, where the multitude interrupt horrors, once stimulated, grows by what it feeds

No. 9.—One cannot but wonder that the comhere given of the same words, showing how poser could have resisted the temptation of the inadequate are these, words only, to convey most lyrical, the beautifully expressive words of a meaning without the adjunction of some other Stephen, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge! form of language or medium of expression to Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" to write an endue them with such vital character as alone can extensive Aria, which would, which must have realise their signification. Declamation is the become to us a memory to hang our love upon, medium that is indispensable, and music may be, and to treasure up in our hearts a sacred, a perand this music is the highest class of declamation. sonal, a household feeling, wherein the sympathies "He blasphemes God," mutter the People in of every one of us who has ever been wronged the former Chorus, awed by the eloquence of their and has forgiven; who has ever loved and, loving, intended victim, and striving mutually to renew trusted; who has ever been chastened by sorrow the energy each of other by their passing from and in such chastening has known a spring to ment. "And who God blasphemes," is the voice of their growing confidence: "He shall perish!" a one would find a home. But one must more is the cowardly bravado of their interassurance admire the exquisite sense of dramatic propriety of their unanimity. Unimpressed by the digni- evinced in the treatment of this passage, which fied composure, the gentle majesty of Stephen; consists of the simple declamation of the text, irritated, rather, by his firmness, and impatient of with such inflection of the voice as is true alike

The death blow has been dealt. Overcome prayer that would avert the judgment of Heaven from those who have destroyed him. His life It is now to be technical. The conclusion of ebbs fast. He resigns his soul into the hands of the Recitative in the key of G minor, with the that Saviour in whose faith he has lived, and every possible poignancy to the unisonous A flat, when he had said this, he fell asleep," is then (coloured by the unhacknied and therefore pecu-rendered with such picturesque beauty as suggests liar tone of the trombones) that afterwards be- to us more touchingly than any words could do comes the minor ninth of G, with which the the gentle state of peace with all the world and Chorus opens. Bitter, severe, vindictive is indeed unity with Heaven in which the Martyr's spirit is the expression of the clamorous entry of the suc- expired, and, shedding forgiveness like an odour cessive voices, and all-powerful the unanimous from its wings, takes its flight into those realms exclamation of the whole choir upon the reso- where truth and light, the substance and the

A most happy artifice is here employed—the

Anthem for 5 voices. By John Scott.

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Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem.

The Organ Part by VINCENT NOVELLO.

[London: J. ALFRED NOVELLO, 69, Dean Street, Soho, & 24, Poultry; also in New York, at 389, Broadway.]





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PRAISE THE LORD, O JERUSALEM.



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PRAISE THE LORD, O JERUSALEM.



This Anthem is printed in Folio Music size, price 9d

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Continued from page 246.

No. 10.-A short Recitative, for soprano, assassination of Stephen, thus introducing the hero of the work with such unimportance as, at that period of his career, his historical character bore, and leaving it to the representation of his subsequent deeds, and their influence upon mankind, for the development of that great conception for which the treatment of these introductory incidents has admirably prepared us, and in which Mendelssohn has proved himself fully equal to his subject. The Recitative proceeds to relate the lamentation of pious men over the body of the Martyr. In this piece of plain recital, the composer, by attempting nothing, succeeds the supported by the tenor. most.

No. 11.—This lovely Chorus, which concludes the portion of the subject that is to be regarded as introductory of the principal action, is a benediction upon him who has suffered for purity and love; and, with what perfect beauty the pronunciation of this blessing is rendered, with what exquisite ideality the assurance of tranquil and eternal happiness (the genial lulling eventide, with its kissing coolness and its whispered warblings Where genius has set its seal it is not for theorism to break asunder, and the sovereign charm of this mighty talisman attracts all sense as it repels all system :- we believe and we feel, to extend.

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A brief examination of the plan of this melowhere its beauty lies, though it cannot teach us of what it consists. The chief Subject is given at full length in the opening symphony by a resonant, mellow combination of tenor instruments, and the expression this embodies is strengthened by a phrase of gentle confirmation, introducing the harmony of the seventh upon the kev-note, for the flute and clarionet. This Subject is then dispersed successively among the voices, and afterwards analogously to the form of a first movement in any instrumental composition upon the classical model, it gives place to a second subject in the fifth of the original key which will be recognised by the moving together for the first time of all the voices in harmony.

Substituted for the elaboration of the Subject with which we have now been made familiar that mostly constitutes the Second Part of an instrumental movement, is an Episode of a somewhat different character, to the words, "For, though the body die, the soul shall live for ever.

With one of those beautiful surprises in which Mendelssohn especially excels, we return to the chief Subject in the original key, and this is followed, to carry out the analogy before noticed, by the second Subject in the same key, instead of, as at first, in the key of the dominant.

The Second subject is here most artfully protells how Saul, by his presence, sanctions the longed into a Coda of great interest, a prominent and most beautiful feature in which is formed by the two unaccompanied phrases for the voices, through which, only, during the whole movement, the figure of semiquavers ceases that is otherwise maintained, in a manner peculiar to the composer, with most fortunate effect.

> The concluding Symphony is a repetition of the first, with the orchestral distribution of the principal melody reversed, those phrases that were before assigned to the tenor instruments being now given to the acute, and those that were before given to the acute instruments being now

Thus is completed the representation of the state of Christians and of Christianity at the time when St. Paul entered upon the scene of history. We see the seditions by which the Scribes incite the People; we see the fanatic fury thus induced and its violent action; we see the dignified firmness, the zealous enthusiasm of the first Martyr; we see his suffering and his intercession for mercy upon his enemies; we see his faith and his resignation. In the fierce, vindictive spirit of of everlasting peace and love,) is conveyed, no the People's Choruses is delineated the present words can serve to say, but yet, no sense can fail character of Saul; in the gentle, peaceful beauty that contrasts these is displayed the nature of the creed which, at first so active to suppress, he was subsequently more sedulous and more influential

The purpose I have ascribed to these introductory pieces is thus, I think, powerfully fulfilled; dious movement may help us to a knowledge of and we are now duly prepared to enter upon the

To be continued.

A WORD OR TWO ON THE MUSICAL SEASON.

THE musical season may fairly be said to have come to its close—the voice of song has died away, and the sound of melody "has gone out." The votaries at the shrine of fashionable music are fled—the squares are empty, and the ceaseless mid-day din of carriage wheels is heard no more. The shutters of Belgravia exclude the light-the season is over, and the denizens of the west are breathing a purer and less smoky atmosphere than for a few short months, for fashion and convenience, they were wont to endure.

The "season" is past, and music is not excluded from the exhilarating or depressing effects of fashion—like everything else it must have its turn for recreation. But having a little leisure for reflection, we naturally ask our-selves what progress we have made in the art divine—we should like to hear an account of the stewardship of the great societies. An evident improvement may be traced in the works performed by the elder Philharmonic Society -at least, so far as the introduction of novelty is concerned; and even though we may sometimes be disposed cented, and even mongin we may sometimes be disposed to quarrel with the choice of music, we think it is but to echo the public voice when we express an opinion that indifferent novelty is preferable to a constant repetition of even the best music: we therefore think the committee of 1853 "wise in their generation," for an obvious improvement in this respect has been made. The new Society has made considerable dispose in while extraction, its cert made considerable advances in public estimation; its establishment and progress are great facts; the excellent ma-

terials of which the orchestra is composed redounds to the honor of the management; and here we would express our regret that a permanent conductor has not been invested with the office. The members of the orchestra are themselves fully aware of the advantages which such a proceeding would make manifest. It is to be hoped that the directors will, previously to the next gathering, become impressed with the value of this fact, and invest with the office some musician, eminent, not only as a composer, but as a conductor; without the latter qualification the post is but unfairly occupied-of course, without the former it could not be occupied at all: but let the practice of conducting an orchestra be combined with scientific knowledge as a musician, and we have no hesitation in stating that the permanent engagement of such a director would confer lasting benefit to the new Society, and tend to enhance in public estimation the position which it has acquired.

The Harmonic Union, under the superintendence of Mr. Benedict, has also taken its stand in public estimation: one of its recommendatory qualities is the endeavour it manifested to encourage native talent: the production of two oratorios, the origin of which is to be traced to young English professors, gives it a claim upon the attention of the musical public: we are told that Mr. Lake's Daniel will be amongst the early productions of the en-

As we reported in our last Number, the Musical Union has had a very prosperous season: we are much indebted to the indefatigable director for the manner in which he has carried out the scheme set forth in his prospectus; his

taste in musical matters is undeniable.

The members of the Sacred Harmonic Society, independently of having catered industriously and with the manifestation of talent in its arrangements and proceedings, have done something for the cause of the musical art, in the completeness of its performance of some of the finest of our sacred works. Under Mr. Costa's guidance, the Society has attained a position which such eminent ability alone could have given it. Some of the minor Societies are also entitled to notice—the Cecilian, the oldest amateur association, amongst the number: without ostentation, and without the aid of transcendent professional talent, it has pursued its quiet course through considerably more than half a century.

The annual series of concerts usually held at the Aldersgate-street Institution is discontinued, the Institution itself being handed over to commercial purposes. This is the fate of many of the amateur musical associations; we could enumerate some dozen or two, which, established without a settled design, have gradually become extinct within

two or three years.

Under all these circumstances, we have no very encouraging thoughts upon the position which our art has assumed, since we similarly addressed the readers of this publication last year; but as it is one of the acknowledged privileges of our nature "to live in hope," we shall exercise this quality, and await the arrival of the next season, which we hope will more fully realize the predictions of the well-wishers of the musical art .- VERNON.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The letter of Librarian of the Jersey Choral Society shall receive attention.

. .-Our Correspondent asks, " Would it not be wise to tune organs on a more equal plan of temperament than that which now prevails?" The equal temperament is no doubt generally to be preferred; and in cases where the organ is used in concert with the orchestra, this mode of tuning is indispensably necessary.

Mr. James E. Mann.—The Harmonium is certainly liable to

instrument.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

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Mr. Benedict.—Arrangements have been made the opening next season of Her Majesty's Theatre: Mr. Benedict is to be the director of the music.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.-This theatre has been let for a series of twelve operatic performances-the prima donna is announced as Madame Caradori, the celebrated prima donna from La Scala: Herr Formes is principal bass, and Herr Reichart, the tenor; the direction is vested in Herr Anschuez. Are we to hear anything more of the national opera, which a few months since was predicted as about to be established at this theatre?

M. JULLIEN AND HIS BAND have crossed the Atlantic: his first performance was to have taken place on the 22nd; we have as yet, of course, received no account of the entertainment. Many of the gentlemen whose talents in this country have enabled M. Jullien to achieve his position are members of his present orchestra; and additions have been made from some of the principal orchestras in

THE NEW PHILHARMONIC DIRECTORS .- The Directors for the next season, elected at the Annual Meeting of the Philharmonic Society, are Messrs. Griesbach, M'Murdie, Clinton, E. Schultz, Calkin, and Anderson.

SPOHR'S "JESSONDA."-Although it does not come altogether within our province to chronicle the doings of the Anglo-Italian stage, we for the sake of the high character enjoyed by Spohr amongst German and English artists, cannot let the performance of Jessonda pass, without expressing a brief opinion of its claim (or rather want of claim) to public attention. We have been greatly disappointed in the work-better, indeed, for the composer's high fame, had it been altogether withheld; that the structure is good, cannot be denied-but there is in it a want of freshness, of feeling, of coloring; the instrumentation is elaborate and skilful-a nice perception of balance is apparent; but the form so carefully made, so neatly and curiously finished, so scientifically fashioned in every part, is lifeless-the body is carefully moulded and beautifully mechanized, but the living light of genius, of impulse, of feeling, is absent. Jessonda has appeared amongst the musical public merely for the purpose of exciting wonder how so much thought and study could have been employed to so little advantage. We are sorry for this result; but Mario's withdrawal from the character designed for him, in some measure prepared us for it. The work, by extract, is well known in the concert-roommany of its pieces are admired, and justly so,—as an opera, it is not too much to state that it has resulted in failure.

MR. JOHN PARRY .- It is with regret that we announce the retirement (on account of delicate health) from professional pursuits, of this universal favorite. acquirements of no ordinary kind, and a voice, which in its prime could scarcely be matched for quality and compass, Mr. John Parry united a keen sense of the comicnot the broad humour of the mere caricaturist nor the mimicry of the grotesque, but the refined and natural feeling of a varied and really comic genius. His first essays in the course which has rendered him so famous, were made under the advice of poor Malibran—in her, whose wondrous musical ability astounded Europe, John Parry found a kind and encouraging friend: up to this time, he had confined himself to sentimental ballad-singing, and when he threw that aside for the comicalities in which he has since been so highly successful, it was a matter of regret to many, for he gave promise of being the first ballad-singer of the day. His pure taste and unaffected manner, however, eminently qualified him to excel—alike in get out of tune. Continental makers have been the most the pathetic and the gay. There is scarcely a musician, native successful in producing the imitative effects of this or foreign, however high his rank, who has not enjoyed John Parry's humour and admired his talents-Mendelssohn

amongst the rest. We have heard him classed amongst the very first of buffo-singers, even by the great Italians themselves. It is not, therefore, without regret—a feeling rendered more keen, perhaps, from a long acquaintance and from personal regard—that the writer has heard the determination to retire of certainly one of the greatest artists of his time.

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GLOUCESTER FESTIVAL.—The three choirs of Gloucester, Worcester, and Hereford, will meet on the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th of September. Tuesday morning, September 13th, a full cathedral service. Wednesday morning, September 14th, Mendelssohn's Oratorio Elijah. Thursday morning, September 15th, Haydn's Creation, Mendelssohn's Christus, and Handel's Israel in Egypt. Friday morning, September 16th, Handel's Sacred Oratorio, The Messiah. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, Grand Miscellaneous Concerts. Principal performers:—Madame Clara Novello, Mdlle. Bellini, Mrs. Weiss, Madame Castellan, Miss Dolby, and Mrs. Lockey; Mr. Lockey, Mr. Weiss, Signor Gardoni, Signor Tagliafico, and Herr Formes. Conductor, Mr. Amott.

BEAUMONT INSTITUTION.—A literal error occurred in our notice of a performance last month at this institution, which, we are assured, is of some importance to the gentleman in whose name it caused an alteration: Mr. Alfred Carder's name was misprinted Carter. We are sorry to have been the innocent cause of any discomfiture to this rising young professor, and are glad his friends have called our attention to the matter.

Musical Union.—Including four Musical Winter Evenings, and two private receptions for the trial of new music and debûts of artists, this day's performance makes altogether a series of fourteen entertainments of chamber classical music given by us during five months, and at which were produced for the first time the following classical works, besides various solos and vocal music of merit. Trio, in E flat. No. 2. Op. 100 (Schubert); Theme and Variations, Pianoforte, Op. 34 (Beethoven); Quintet, in G, Op. 33 (Spohr); Quintet, Pianoforte, E flat, Op. 44 (Schumann); Pianoforte Sonata, in D, Op. 10 (Beethoven); Quartet, B flat (6-8), No. 3 (Mozart); Quartet, E major, No. 59 (Haydn); Sonata, No. 2 (Tartini); Quartet, B minor, No. 68 (Haydn); Pianoforte Sonata, Op. 47 (Hiller); Duet à 4 mains, F minor, Op. 22 (Onslow); Sestet, in C. Op. 140 (Spohr). The following list of performers is printed as they successively appeared in our programmes of the Musical Winter Evenings, and Musical Union Matinées: Molique, Vieuxtemps, Bazzini, Mel-lon, Goffrie, Hill, Webb, Henry Blagrove, Piatti, Lütgen, F. Pratten, Bottessini, R. S. Pratten, Barret, Lazarus, Wuille, Bauman, Jarrett, C. Harper, Hallé, Pauer, Mdlle. Clause, Habritor, Hiller, Blurgathal, Mallo, Standard Clauss, Haberbier, Hiller, Blumenthal, Mdlle. Staudach, and Arthur Napoleon. At two evening receptions in the Concert Room of the Réunion des Arts, the following artists performed for the first time in England:—Violin, Gräf; Viola, Ries (pupils of Vieuxtemps); Violoncello, Jacquard and Drechsler; Pianoforte, Mdlle. Graever. Summary—14 Germans; 3 French; 3 Italians; 2 Belgian; 9 English, and 1 Portuguese .- Ella's Musical Record.

Sivori.--By the upsetting of a carriage in Switzerland, this well-known violinist has received such injuries as to prevent him, for some weeks, appearing in public.

MADAME SONTAG.—An American paper states that Madame Sontag is about to retire, having netted by her tour in the States upwards of 60,000 dollars (12,000L) Another journal, however, announces that she has joined a company formed by M. Martezer, to perform in New York during the summer months.

Deloffre. — Deloffre has been appointed chef d'orchestre at the Théatre-Lyrique; he is celebrated both as a violinist and as a musician.

Thatberg.—This celebrated pianist is said to be composing two operas. One with the libretto by Romani, is for Vienna; the other, with that of Scribe and Légouve; is for the Opera Comique.

REDRUTH.—The English Glee and Madrigal Union, Mr. and Mrs. Lockey, Mrs. Endersohn, Mr. Hobbs, and Mr. Phillips, gave a Concert in the Town Hall here, on the 15th instant. The programme consisted of Glees, Madrigals, and Solos, which were executed by these artistes in their well-known style, Mrs. Lockey receiving an enthusiastic encore in Mr. Land's song, "When sorrow sleepeth wake it not," which was cheerfully responded to. It is to be regretted that so many professionals who visit this county pass this town, giving Concerts at Truro and Penzance, and go a distance of 25 miles (including Redruth and Camborne, both towns possessing great natural abilities) without giving a Concert.—From a Correspondent.

TESTIMONIAL TO MONSIEUR JULLIEN.—A numerous meeting of the testimonial concert committee, with a large body of ariistes who have for many years performed under and otherwise been associated with M. Jullien, met at the Hanover-square Rooms on Monday morning, for the purpose of presenting him with a testimonial of their respect. The sowenir consisted of a magnificent gold-mounted baton, set with diamonds, and valued at the sum of 2501. It was handed to M. Jullien by Mr. Howell, the celebrated double bass player, and in doing so he took occasion to remark upon the importance of the services which M. Jullien had rendered to the art of music and its professors, and concluded by wishing, him prosperity in his visit to the American continent.

Bradford Musical Festival.—This event opened at the St. George's Hall, Bradford, on Wednesday, the 31st, and terminates September the 2nd. The Earl of Harewood is the President. The principal vocalists consist of Madame Clara Novello, Miss Louisa Pyne, Mrs. Lockey (late Miss M. Williams), Mrs. Sunderland, Miss Freeman, and Madame Castellan; Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Lockey, Mr. Weiss, Mr. Winn, Herr Formes, Signor Tagliafico, and Signor Gardoni. Mr. J. L. Brownsmith is appointed organist, and Mr. W. Jackson, of Bradford, will officiate as chorus-master. Mr. Costa is the conductor. The band consists of sixteen first violins, sixteen second violins, ten tenors, ten violoncellos, ten double-basses, two harps, two flutes, two oboes, two clarionets, two bassoons, four horns, two trumpets, three trombones, one ophicleide, one double drum, one triangle and side drum, and one bass drum, making in all a force of eighty-five. The chorus is very powerful, and numbers close on two hundred and twenty members. They are, for the greater part, selected from the choirs of Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, and Huddersfield.

UXERIDGE.—The members of the Choral Society gave their first entertainment on the 20th June, under the direction of Mr. J. T. Birch: the programme embraced a selection from the works of the best sacred composers—including those of Handel, Haydn, Moscheles, Mendelssohn, Beethoven, &c. The performance, we are informed, gave general satisfaction: one of the regulations of this new society enjoins a meeting for practice weekly—a rule that must be attended with a good result.

ROCHDALE.—An Organ Performance was given in the Assembly Room on August 10th, by Mr. R. Hacking, jun. The selection comprised the works of Handel, Mozart, Bach, and Mendelssohn.

DESTRUCTION OF KIRKMAN'S PIANOFORTE MANUFACTORY.—A fire broke out recently in the premises of Messrs. J. Kirkman and Co., the pianoforte makers in Dufour's Place, Golden Square, and for several hours raged with the utmost violence. Owing to the inflammable nature of the stock, and the progress the fire had made previous to the arrival of the engines, no sensible effect

was made on the conflagration, and three sides of the factory were at one time entirely enveloped in flames. During the whole of the morning, the firemen exerted themselves to little purpose; an immense amount of property was destroyed. The Messrs. Kirkman, we hear, had ensured their premises to a large amount.

-Mr. Hughes, from Leslie, who has recently been engaged as our precentor, gave a concert of vocal music here on the 22nd July, when he was ably assisted by several distinguished vocalists from different parts of the county, among whom was Mr. Livingston, precentor of the Parish Church, Newburgh, whose vocal powers are admitted to be very superior.

Bury -A new society has been established here in connexion with the Athenæum; it is called "The Bury Athenæum Choral Society." Mr. D. W. Banks has been appointed musical director. The Creation is now under rehearsal, and sanguine expectations are entertained of the success of the new scheme.

BIRMINGHAM .- Mr. J. A. Baker has been lately re-appointed Organist of St. Luke's Church in this town. The organ, comprising three manuals, two and a half octaves of pedals, and fifty stops, presented by John Campbell, Esq., to St. Paul's Church, Prince's Park, Liverpool, and built by Mr. John Banfield, was exhibited at his manufactory on the 15th and 16th of August, prior to removal to its intended destination.

NEWFORT.—A new society, called "The Newport Sacred Harmonic Society," has been recently established. The conductor is Mr. H. J. Groves; the leader, Mr. Thorne; and the accompanyist is Miss Clowes. We have received a copy of the Rules, which appear, upon a hasty perusal, to be of a very practicable and sensible character, and calculated to ensure the success of the infant society.

PARIS.—On Monday, the 15th August, all the theatres were thrown open gratis to the public, it being the fete day of the Emperor, and a grand concert took place in the gardens of the Tuileries, between 7 and 9 o'clock the same evening. More than two hundred and fifty artistes assisted at the performance, which was made under the direction of M. Auber.

MR. STERNDALE BENNETT .- The direction of the Grand Concerts of the Gewandhaus, presided over for years by Mendelssohn, has been offered to Mr. Sterndale Bennett.

MADAME GRISI AND MARIO are giving a series of farewell performances at Clifton.

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